

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C.

Subject: *Petition for Rule Making* (RM-10868) by the Radio Amateur Foundation

Dear Commissioners:

I have been an amateur radio operator since 1968, an Amateur Extra class licensee since 1970, and a volunteer examiner since 1984. My early interest in amateur radio motivated me, as it has many other licensees, to pursue a career in electrical engineering. I very much want the Amateur Radio Service to remain a vibrant institution consisting of “trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts” as stated in Part 97.1 of the Commission’s regulations.

The petition submitted by the Radio Amateur Foundation (RM-10868) is clearly superior to those submitted by the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) and the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). For example, both the NCVEC petition and the ARRL petition request that the Commission create a new entry-level license which would grant some HF privileges, including radiotelephony, but requiring no Morse code examination. The Radio Amateur Foundation, however, suggests that the Commission simply modify the Technician license (the current entry-level license) so that it would continue to serve as the entry-level license, but with the HF privileges as described in RM-10868. The Commission has previously noted the success of the Technician class as the entry-level license and the Radio Amateur Foundation plan would maintain that status.

The restricted HF privileges proposed in this petition for the Technician class license (narrowband data and Morse telegraphy on segments of the 80, 40, 15, and 10 meter bands, plus voice and image privileges on 160, 15, and 10 meters) provide an excellent sampling of HF frequencies and modes for the entry-level licensee, while reserving other operating privileges (e.g., voice privileges on 40 and 80 meters, plus the entire 20 meter band) as incentives to upgrade to a higher class of license. Conversely, the NCVEC and ARRL petitions both recommend that the entry-level license convey voice and image privileges on segments of both 80 meters and 40 meters, an ill-considered idea as explained in RM-10868.

The petition submitted by the Radio Amateur Foundation requests that the Commission make no modifications to the current General and Amateur Extra class licenses. I agree with this request because both of these higher-grade licenses continue to serve their roles very well.

Operating an amateur radio station is a privilege earned through examination of an applicant’s qualifications. The quality of the Amateur Radio Service is more important than its number of licensees. I believe that the petition submitted by the Radio Amateur Foundation serves these basic principles very well.

In summary, I respectfully request the Commission to adopt the licensing plan proposed by the Radio Amateur Foundation in its petition RM-10868.

Very truly yours,

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